



NATIONAL SCIENCE FOUNDATION
4201 WILSON BOULEVARD
ARLINGTON, VA 22230

Title: Division of Graduate Education (DGE)
Program Directors for Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship
Employment Opportunity--Dear Colleague Letter

Date: November 3, 2003

Dear Colleague:

The National Science Foundation announces a nationwide search for two Program Directors in the Division of Graduate Education. ***The desired starting date for this position is January 19 2004.***

The Division of Graduate Education provides the Foundation's focus for strong and innovative support for graduate students and graduate education programs to ensure the strength, diversity, and vitality of the US science and engineering workforce. The Division aims to enhance the flexibility and appropriateness of graduate programs at various levels and across the full range of disciplines supported by the Foundation as a whole. The Division seeks to expand its collaborations with other programs and units at NSF and sister agencies to more effectively facilitate advances in graduate education.

Two positions are available in the **Integrative Graduate Education and Research Traineeship (IGERT) Program**. The IGERT Program has been developed to meet the challenges of educating U.S. Ph.D. scientists, engineers, and educators with the interdisciplinary backgrounds, deep knowledge in chosen disciplines, and technical, professional, and personal skills to become, in their own careers, leaders and creative agents for change. Since 1998, 121 IGERT projects have been funded; these involve approximately 1800 graduate students and 3000 faculty at 71 universities.

The IGERT Program Directors are responsible for coordinating the implementation, review, funding, post-award management, and evaluation of the program, preparing programmatic, administrative and budget documents related to the program, and contributing to dissemination efforts. As a cross-foundation program, the Program Directors work with representatives from all NSF directorates in designing and managing the program.

The Program Directors serve as members of the Executive Staff for the Division of Graduate Education, participate in the development of direction, programs, and policies for the division, contribute to the intellectual integration of programs supported by the Division, and represent the program and the division within NSF and in external venues.

We seek Program Directors with deep disciplinary knowledge along with a commitment to high standards and to working as part of creative teams, a considerable breadth of interest and receptivity to new ideas, a strong sense of fairness, good judgment, and a high degree of personal integrity.

Qualification requirements include a Ph.D. or equivalent plus six or more years of successful research, research administration and/or graduate education administration experience. Desired

qualifications include successful experience mentoring graduate students as a faculty member at an institution of higher learning, knowledge of the general scientific community, skill in written communication and preparation of technical reports, an ability to communicate orally, and several years of successful independent research of the kind normally expected of the academic rank of associate professor or higher. Direct knowledge of and/or experience with the IGERT program or other doctoral reform initiatives is preferred.

Program Director positions recruited under this announcement may be filled under one of the following appointment options:

- **Visiting Scientist Appointment.** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Visiting Scientists are on non-paid leave status from their home institution and appointed to NSF's payroll as Federal employees. NSF withholds Social Security taxes and pays the home institution's contributions to maintain retirement and fringe benefits (i.e., health benefits and life insurance), either directly to the home institution or to the carrier. Appointments are usually made for up to one year and may be extended for an additional year by mutual agreement.
- **Intergovernmental Personnel Act (IPA) Assignment.** Individuals eligible for an IPA assignment with a Federal agency include employees of State and local government agencies or institutions of higher education, Indian tribal governments, and other eligible organizations in instances where such assignments would be of mutual benefit to the organizations involved. Initial assignments under IPA provisions may be made for a period of up to two years, with a possible extension for up to an additional two-year period. The individual remains an employee of the home institution and NSF provides funding toward the assignee's salary and benefits. Initial IPA assignments are made for a one-year period and may be extended by mutual agreement.
- **Temporary Excepted Service Appointment.** Appointment to this position will be made under the Excepted Authority of the NSF Act. Candidates who do not have civil service status or reinstatement eligibility will not obtain civil service status if selected. Candidates currently in the competitive service will be required to waive competitive civil service rights if selected. Usual civil service benefits (retirement, health benefits, life insurance) are applicable for appointments of more than one year. Temporary appointments may not exceed three years.

For additional information on NSF's rotational programs, please see "Programs for Scientists, Engineers and Educators" on the NSF website at www.nsf.gov/jobs. Applications and questions concerning these Program Director positions should be directed to:

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HIGHLY QUALIFIED STAFF THAT REFLECTS THE DIVERSITY OF OUR NATION.**